

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated April 23, 2004, claims 22 and 30 are amended, and claims 1, 2, 8, 10-21 and 29 are canceled. Claims 3-7, 9, 21-28 and 30-36 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

I. Claims 1, 2, 11-21 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheridan (USPN 4,143,103) in view of Evans (USPN 3,612,758), for the reasons substantially of record.

II. Claims 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheridan in view of Moore (USPN 6,611,100), for the reasons substantially of record.

III. The indication that claims 3-7 and 9 are allowable, and that claims 22-28 and 30-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated.

By this response, claims 22 is and to be in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 21, claims 30 is and to be in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 29, and claims 1, 2, 8, 10-21 and 29 are canceled.

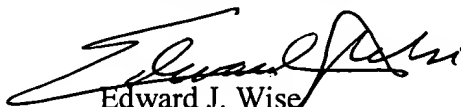
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY



Edward J. Wise
Registration No. 34,523

600 13th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-3096
(202) 756-8000 EJW:men
DATE: September 23, 2004
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087